

## Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2007-2008

**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) first compiled and analyzed data for the development of the Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan (SPP) utilizing the expertise of internal personnel. A draft along with the data was reviewed with the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC). RISEAC advises the Commissioner and Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education on matters concerning: (a) the unmet educational needs of children with disabilities; (b) comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities; (c) advises the Rhode Island Department of Education in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the IDEA; (d) advises the RIDE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring Reports under Part B of the IDEA; and (e) advises the RIDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. Membership of the committee is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities birth through 26 maintain the majority of the Committee Membership. The Membership also includes individuals with disabilities, teachers, representatives of institutions of higher education, private schools, charter schools, state and local education officials, administrators of programs for children with disabilities foster care and homelessness, vocational, community or business organizations, juvenile and adult corrections and State Child Serving Agencies. The SEAC reviewed the draft and provided suggestions and input. These were incorporated into the final copy of this document.

**Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part B / General Supervision**

**Indicator –: 17:** Percent of fully adjudicated due process hearing requests that were fully adjudicated within the 45-day timeline or a timeline that is properly extended by the hearing officer at the request of either party.

100%

<b>Measurement:</b> Percent = $[(3.2(a) + 3.2(b)) \text{ divided by } 3.2] \text{ times } 100.$	100
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FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 -2008	Target set by Secretary at 100%

**Actual Target Data for 2007-2008: Target hit 100% (34 Hearings requested, 1 Hearing that was fully adjudicated within the 45-day timeline or a timeline that was properly extended by the hearing officer at the request of either party)**

## APR Template – Part B (4)

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State

This data represents timelines ending when due process hearings are issued, not when the hearing is concluded. All hearing officers are aware of the timelines, and have been instructed to adhere to the all timelines, including timelines adjusted by 34 CFR 300.510(c).

The hearing decision is available to the state advisory panel, and discussion of the hearing decision is on a future agenda of the state advisory panel. Agenda and minutes will be submitted to OSEP as an assurance and a semi-annual (in the fall and in the spring) update of due process issues will be presented to the state advisory panel to inform of any subsequent decisions or issues affecting the state.

### **Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for 2007-2008:**

Technical assistance, including hearing officer training, offered by OSEP and other regional technical assistance groups, such as the Northeast Regional Resource Center, will be utilized to insure improvements over the due process system.

The process currently used includes the following:

- Written request for a hearing received by RIDE
- RIDE assigns hearing officer on a rotating basis
- Notice to Hearing officers includes pre-hearing conference date and other timelines
- Hearing officer conducts independent hearing
- RIDE monitors timelines
- RIDE collects data and final decisions
- RIDE provides trainings to hearing officers

### **Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for (2007 - 2008)**

*not applicable*